

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, January 6, 2014
James Neff Houff Conference Room

Mayor Brinkley called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

Present: Mayor Brinkley, Vice Mayor Hillert, Councilwoman Roberts, Councilman Irvine, and Councilman Johnson

Also present: Darlene Burcham, Town Manager, David Davis, Town Attorney, and Mac Campbell and Diana Kling Smith of the Planning Commission, and Don Ford, Community Development Director

Mayor Brinkley started the meeting by asking Planning Commissioners to explain the rationale for the unanimous vote to recommend denial of the Boyd rezoning. During this discussion, Biff Downey and Dr. Goings arrived.

Mr. Campbell spoke first stating that the request was not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. He also stated that he was supportive of the need for such a facility, but that the Church Street address was not the right location. Mrs. Smith was concerned about oversight and the location and responded to Mr. Irvine's questions comparing the proposed facility with existing group homes in the community. Mr. Downey expressed his reservations regarding oversight and staff training. Dr. Goings mentioned the possibility of locating elsewhere where rezoning would not be necessary as he felt the location was not suitable. Council members sought clarification of several comments and felt that they should refrain from identifying programmatic issues, but rather focus on the Comprehensive Plan and its goals for the Town.

The Town Manager reported that since a meeting in mid-December with Mrs. Boyd, the staff has not received any additional information from that previously provided Council, but that Mrs. Boyd was insistent that the rezoning be scheduled for the January 14, 2014 meeting. The Planning Commission was thanked for their work and encouraged to attend Council meetings when rezonings are scheduled.

Meade Snyder, John Hillert, and Bill Ray with the Masonic Theatre Preservation group provided an update on the project's status including information on the success of similar catalyst projects in Marion and Staunton. The intricacies of the financing of the project were shared since 50% of the total revenues for the project are tax credits. Mr. Snyder also shared some needed changes in the current agreement between the Town and the Theatre regarding the appropriate entity to hold the agreement as well as payment of utilities. Mr. Snyder suggested the Town consider a grant to the Foundation to cover utilities and perhaps real estate taxes in the future as well as a possible waiver of certain town fees to assist the Theatre financially. The agreement with Appalfoiks will be deferred until the purchaser of tax credits can be identified. The Foundation anticipates a 12-18 month construction period beginning this summer.

Council next discussed the sewer lateral issue without coming to any consensus on how to resolve. Council agreed to take some definitive action by the first meeting in February.

Due to the length of the meeting, Council agreed to schedule a separate work session on goals and set that meeting for Monday, January 27, 2014 at 4 PM. Nominations for the next round of “On The Right Track” awards will also be discussed at that same session.

As the final item, the Town Manager recommended that the traffic signal at Main and Jefferson be removed, noting that the original VDOT analysis recommended its removal. Council agreed to a trial period where we would bag the signal.

Motion to adjourn

Time: 6:46 PM

Motion Made By: Councilwoman Roberts

Seconded By: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Brinkley	Aye
Vice Mayor Hillert	Aye
Councilwoman Roberts	Aye
Councilman Irvine	Aye
Councilman Johnson	Aye

Motion passed: **5-0**